



For Immediate Release
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U.S. and Norwegian Government Sign Statement of Intent on Nuclear Emergency Management

WASHINGTON, DC – In an effort to combat terrorism worldwide and to strengthen international emergency capabilities, the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Paul Longworth today signed a statement of intent (SOI) with the director general of the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA) Ole Harbitz to reinforce cooperation in nuclear emergency management.

The agreement between the NNSA and the NRPA affirms a strong commitment by the United States and Norway to bolster the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) emergency preparedness and response capacity and to encourage all member states of the (IAEA) to accede to and implement the Conventions on Assistance and Early Notification.

The SOI stresses the importance of the conventions and illustrates the complexity and effort required to address nuclear and radiological threats.

"It is very important for countries to strengthen emergency response capabilities, especially given recent terrorists events. We are proud to cooperate with the government of Norway in this important arena," said Longworth.

The two countries will continue supporting implementation of the International Action Plan for Strengthening the International Preparedness and Response System for Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies while providing technical advice and assistance to countries worldwide. Additionally, they will continue addressing future performance measures to improve the advisory, assessment and evaluation, monitoring and recovery functions of emergency response.

NNSA's Office of International Emergency Management and Cooperation (IEMC) will work with Norwegian counterparts, under the SOI. IEMC works with foreign governments and international organizations to enhance worldwide emergency response capabilities. The program shares information and helps develop programs and infrastructure to protect the public, workers, and the environment. IEMC also provides vital support to the IAEA, including radiation detection equipment and technical assistance.

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